

WORKING FOR STRATFORD'S KIDS



State Senator

**Dan
Debicella**



Dear Neighbor:

As your State Senator, one of my top priorities is to ensure that Stratford is a phenomenal place for children to grow up. I want to share with you all the initiatives I am working on to increase school funding, restore our fields, and improve the quality of life for Stratford kids.

First, I am working to get more state education dollars for Stratford students. I have proposed legislation to eliminate the current cap on Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds. Back in 1992, a cap was imposed limiting how much ECS funding mid-sized towns like Stratford could receive. Our hard working students and teachers deserve to get their fair share from the state.

My bill would eliminate the ECS cap, and bring in an additional *\$3 million* in state funding for Stratford's schools each year—to pay for smaller classes, new textbooks, and better facilities.

Children's educational experiences do not end in the classroom. That's why I submitted legislation that would provide \$200,000 in state funding for a brand new turf football field at Bunnell High School for our student athletes. I have also proposed a bill that would provide \$500,000 to help make improvements to Boothe Memorial Park so children of all ages can learn about local history and enjoy the outdoors for years to come.

Finally, in order for our schools to thrive, we need to free them from the burdens of unfunded mandates—laws that require Stratford to do certain things, but do not provide the funding. I am calling on the General Assembly to eliminate all unfunded state mandates and return control of our school systems to local officials who know how best to provide a productive learning environment for our children.

If you want more information on my proposals, or if there is anything I can do for you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 842-1421 or at dan.debicella@cga.ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "D" and a cursive "an".

Dan Debicella